

- ☐ Action
☒ Discussion
☒ Information

SUBJECT: **FINALIZING THE 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND STATEMENT OF POLICY**

STAFF CONTACT: Joyce Nichols, City Manager's Office, 452-4225

POLICY ISSUE: The State Legislature addresses a range of policy issues of interest to the City.

NEEDED FROM COUNCIL:

Staff is providing the Draft 2014 State Legislative Agenda and Statement of Policy for Council information and discussion in order to give Council an overview of the critical issues to be included in next year's legislative documents. Council feedback received at the October 28 Regional Issues Study Session has been incorporated into a second draft Legislative Agenda and is provided for Council review tonight, along with a first draft of the Statement of Policy. The State Legislative Agenda and Statement of Policy are typically adopted by Council in December.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the City Council adopts two policy documents related to the State Legislature:

- (1) Legislative Agenda – a shorter list of priority items that will be the focus of the City's efforts in Olympia each year. A new document is produced each year for Council approval. The Agenda is used to communicate on key issues of interest and concern to the City's legislative delegation, and is included as Attachment A. The issues proposed for inclusion in the 2014 State Legislative Agenda are those preliminarily identified by staff as the most important for the City to pursue during the 2014 Session or those that are likely to be pursued by others. In many cases, the proposed policy positions are protective of the City's authority and revenue base.

Staff is seeking any additional input and direction from Council on whether these issues and preliminary positions are the right ones to include in the Agenda and, if so, the relative priority.

- (2) Statement of Policy – a comprehensive list of legislative positions covering a broad range of issues developed over time. These issues may or may not surface during the legislative session. The Statement of Policy is carried forward each year with changes to remove items that have been resolved or are no longer policy positions of the Council

and to add new policies as appropriate. The Statement of Policy has grown over the years to encompass many policy issues. This document is utilized by City staff to provide policy direction as issues are considered by the Legislature. The revised Statement of Policy is included as Attachment B. The document was edited to reflect changes that occurred as a result of legislative action in 2013 as well as general edits from staff. In all cases, changes between the 2013 adopted and 2014 draft statement of policy are shown in track changes. For ease in reading, a clean copy is also included.

2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2014 State Legislative Session begins on January 13 and runs 60 days, and is already shaping up to be another challenging session. The State's fiscal challenges have not gone away. The September and November state revenue forecasts noted some slight improvement in the State's financial outlook and the forecast information will be factored into Governor Inslee's proposed supplemental budget that will be rolled out the third week of December. However, there may still be a gap between revenues and expenditures that the Legislature will need to deal with as it writes a supplemental budget.

Adding to the challenge is the continued need for the Legislature to deal with the State Supreme Court decision in the *McCleary* case that held the State's system of school funding is unconstitutionally inadequate and placed the State under a court order to remedy K-12 funding. In the 2013 session the Legislature dedicated approximately \$1 billion to K-12 education. The attorney for the *McCleary* plaintiffs filed an update with the State Supreme Court in early October. He called the legislature's response to *McCleary* during the 2013 session wholly inadequate, and asked the Court to hold the legislature in contempt or impose some other remedy that the Court saw fit (which is the issue: what can the Court do to the legislature to make them comply with their education funding ruling?). We are waiting for the Court's response which may or may not come prior to the 2014 session. If the Court tells the legislature to make more measurable progress toward funding K-12 education in 2014, and threatens sanctions if that does not occur, the 2014 session could be a repeat of 2013 with a drawn out discussion over how to provide more money to the K-12 system (up to the additional \$4 billion per year the Court demanded by 2018).

Our challenge, along with other local governments, will be to secure existing state-shared revenues from being diverted into the State's general fund as was the case in the 2013 Session when the Legislature "swept" most of the money from the Public Works Trust Fund.

Transportation

As you know, members of the state legislature continue to negotiate on a new revenue package for transportation. The following update includes details available on the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus (MCC) proposal that was scheduled for a 1:30 p.m. hearing on November 21 in Olympia. Details on the proposal were only released Sunday, November 17, and some impacts are still unclear.

Bills included in the November 21 Senate hearing are listed below:

1. Concerning transportation revenue [S-3211.2/14].
2. Concerning additive transportation funding and appropriations [S-3213.3/14].
3. Authorizing bonds for transportation funding [S-3212.1/14].

4. Transferring certain state sales and use taxes collected on state highway projects to the connecting Washington account [S-3210.1/14].
5. Concerning activities at the department of transportation funded by the environmental legacy stewardship account [S-3113.3/14].
6. Concerning certain public works contracting requirements [S-3114.3/14].
7. Concerning permits for state transportation corridor projects [S-3119.3/14].
8. Modifying the transportation system policy goal of mobility [S-3214.1/14].
9. Concerning Washington state department of transportation projects [S-3202.1/14].
10. Concerning transportation project delivery [S-3209.2/14].

With the available information on the June 2013 House-passed transportation package that included a 10 cent per gallon increase in the State gas tax, and the now 11.5 cent Senate transportation package just released, below is a summary of the House and Senate positions on:

- I-405 project funding
- SR 520 project funding
- 124th interchange project funding
- Local options
- Transit funding
- Stormwater funding

The House package is probably somewhat different from the June-passed package as Senator King and Rep. Clibborn have been negotiating for over a month. The table below uses the June-passed package, as that is the only House information available at this time.

The MCC package does appear to “push out” I-405 work beyond the 2022 target date for completion of that project. The MCC package also includes over a billion dollars for SR 520, probably less than a complete project still, and achieves that in part by including about \$700 million from transportation project sales taxes (on materials) that now goes to the state general fund: this is not an agreed to position yet. Furthermore, the MCC positions on transit funding and stormwater funding are complicated and unclear, and need further review.

I-405 Funding

Funding for the 405 project from Bellevue to Renton is listed at \$1.285 billion in the MCC package, and \$1.275 billion in the House passed package. The MCC package is either bonded or pay as you go or both; the House package is split between \$775 million in bonds and \$500 million in tolling revenue. The House package completes I-405 more quickly.

The biennial splits are as follows:

Biennium	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
House Package	\$45 million	\$450 million	\$573 million	\$206 million	
MCC Package		\$160 million	\$553 million	\$228 million	\$344 million

SR 520 Funding

The MCC package has \$1.3 billion for 520, \$1.1 billion of which is spent in the 2023-2025 and 2025-2027 biennia. The House-passed package had \$200 million for work on the west end of 520.

124th Interchange Funding

Both packages have \$35 million for the 124th interchange project. The House package spends the \$35 million in the 2021-2023 biennium; the MCC package spends the funds in the 2025-2027 biennium.

Local Options

	TBD Authority	MVET Authority	Congestion Relief Charge	Community Transit Authority
House package	Increases the TBD authority by councilmanic vote from \$20 to \$40	King County may impose a 1.5% MVET with a public vote; proceeds are 60% for METRO transit, 40% for local roads (to cities)	Not included	Community Transit can impose up to a 0.3% sales tax with a public vote
MCC package	Same increase as in the House package, but the \$20 must be in place for two years before the council can vote for \$40	Same as House	Extends the KC \$20 congestion relief charge to 2018; after 2014, funding split 50% for METRO, 50% for local roads	Same as House

Additionally, the House local options package allows for the creation of a transit sub-district to increase the sales tax rate for transit to 0.9%. This is a Pierce Transit request.

Transit Funding

Transit funding is difficult to ascertain. The House-passed package adds \$250 million in transit support through 2025. The MCC proposed package includes \$15 million for “transit projects” and \$33 million for special needs transit. The 2012 passed transportation “fee bill” also included some transit funding, but we have not been able to get an exact number.

Stormwater Funding

The issue with stormwater is where the funding is coming from: the Senate transfers \$280 million from the Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA), without new MTCA funding authority, over the 12-year period. The House funds stormwater from the transportation and capital budget.

Some legislators involved in the talks believe there is hope that an agreement could come before the end of the year. Staff will continue to keep Council apprised of details as the negotiations continue.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

(A) Revised Draft 2014 State Legislative Agenda (Track Changes copy and clean copy)

(B) Draft 2014 Statement of Policy (Track Changes copy and clean copy)



DRAFT

CITY OF BELLEVUE 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Support for the Technology Sector: Bellevue supports efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the technology sector through investments in infrastructure and education, specifically STEM, K-12, advanced manufacturing for technical specialties, and apprenticeships. ~~as well as~~ Bellevue also supports incentives that ~~support~~ enhance research and development.

Increased Funding Support for Workforce Housing: Bellevue supports the Housing Trust Fund, which is the State's main resource for funding the capital costs of affordable workforce housing development. Bellevue also supports other state and local tools to increase and sustain development of workforce housing in cities.

REVENUE/FISCAL ISSUES

Local Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax and Licensing Authority: Bellevue supports the goal of streamlining administration and reporting of local B&O taxes through the single multi-city business license and tax portal, scheduled to be operational in the fall of 2014. Bellevue opposes State administration of local B&O tax as it will reduce local flexibility to tailor the tax to local conditions and it will reduce revenues to the City.

State-Shared Funding: Bellevue supports preserving State-shared revenues and supports retention of programs and authority benefitting local government. Specifically, Bellevue supports:

- Restoring the \$10 million ongoing diversion of liquor taxes and reinstating the local share of excess liquor profits
- Restoring the six-year diversion of Public Works Trust Fund monies to the State general fund that occurred in the 2013-15 state operating budget
- Ensuring continued appropriation of committed state-shared revenues such as liquor profits and taxes, the annexation sales tax credit, streamlined sales tax (SST) mitigation funding, municipal criminal justice account funding, and public health funding
- Ensuring that the State share with cities a portion of the anticipated marijuana revenue to help offset local enforcement and other impacts

TRANSPORTATION

New Transportation Revenue Package: Bellevue supports the passage of a robust State-enacted transportation package that provides new revenue for roads and transit, including an increase in the State gas tax, dedicated gas tax funding for local distribution and focuses on the following projects that are of critical importance to the City:

Completion of projects identified in the I-405 Master Plan, including:

- One new lane in each direction from I-90 to Renton
- NE 6th extension to 120th Ave. NE
- Restripe NE 12th to SE 8th to accommodate an additional lane in each direction
- Completion of southbound SR 520 to I-405 braided ramp at NE 10th
- Funding for a new full interchange at 124th and SR 520 and funding to complete the SR 520 project's Regional Bike Path

PUBLIC SAFETY

Medical Cannabis/Legalization of Adult Marijuana Use: Bellevue supports legislative changes to ~~provide for consistency~~ consolidate the between laws regulating the production and distribution of medical cannabis and recreational marijuana into a single system. The principle fFocus should be on achieving safe and appropriate access to medically recommended supply of medical cannabis while removing incentives to continue with black marketing of products. The City also strongly supports legislative confirmation of local authority over traditional land use, licensing, local taxes and fees, and other regulatory functions regarding marijuana production or distribution.

UTILITIES/ENVIRONMENT

NPDES Permit and Stormwater Funding: Bellevue supports State funding that allows local governments flexibility to determine the best way to use the funding in implementing the Phase II stormwater requirements (NPDES permit). Bellevue opposes permit conditions that undermine local land use authority.

Fish Consumption Rulemaking and Legislation: Bellevue will monitor the Department of Ecology's rulemaking and any subsequent legislation regarding fish consumption and water quality standards to ensure a balanced, rational approach on this issue as these may impact regulatory compliance and costs.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Public Records Requests: Bellevue takes a customer-focused approach in providing efficient and effective access to public records, and is committed to allocating resources to respond appropriately to the Public Records Act while balancing resources and customer expectations. The City recognizes that some local government agencies have been overwhelmed in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Act due to the actions of a small number of requestors. As a result of action in the 2013 legislative session, funding was allocated to research new approaches to managing requests, including mediation and/or negotiated settlements. The City is tracking results of this research to determine if a resulting recommendation provides a solution that enables Bellevue and other cities to meet their obligations under the Public Records Act without being overwhelmed by requests.

Sustainable Personnel Costs: Bellevue supports amendments to the criteria for binding interest arbitration that would permit consideration of the following: ~~ability to pay;~~ economic priorities and fiscal limitations, local labor market conditions, ~~and other unique characteristics at the state, regional and local level;~~ and qualifications ~~for of~~ arbitrators.

Pension Funding: Bellevue supports amendments to pension legislation to “stabilize” contribution rates so that they do not fluctuate with economic “boom/bust” cycles and supports a more fiscally responsible approach to pension funding.



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DRAFT CITY OF BELLEVUE 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE STATEMENT OF POLICY

Note: The 2014 Draft Statement of Policy was reviewed by staff and edited to reflect changes that occurred as a result of legislative action in 2013.

Changes between the 2013 adopted and 2014 draft Statement of Policy are shown in Track Changes. A "clean" copy is also included for ease in reading the document.

GENERAL POLICY

The City of Bellevue supports State legislative efforts to encourage cost-effective State, regional and local policy planning and delivery of government services. The City supports legislation that enhances local flexibility to address issues of local concern. The City opposes legislation that mandates increased local costs or results in an inappropriate diminution of local authority over local affairs.

- A. ~~ECONOMIC VITALITY DEVELOPMENT.~~** ~~Support legislation recognizing that the State and local governments play an important role in maintaining, expanding and diversifying local economies. Support legislation or funding that would enhance cities' ability to support job retention and growth; support workforce development; provide economic development loans and grants; finance public improvements for economic development purposes, including tax increment financing mechanisms and new State infrastructure matching programs, loans or grants; and support Brownfields cleanup activities.~~ Quality of life for Bellevue's residents, businesses, neighborhoods and overall community is inextricably linked to our area's economic vitality. The City supports development of tools that improve and enhance the innovation and knowledge workforce and economic sectors that contribute to our overall quality of life. Bellevue also supports funding for infrastructure improvements, including mobility options and better transit services, which are a key factor in innovation firms choosing to locate in the City, especially in Downtown.

The City will focus its legislative efforts on the following:

Support for the Technology Sector: Bellevue supports efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the technology sector through investments in infrastructure and education, specifically STEM, K-12, advanced manufacturing for technical specialties, and apprenticeships. Bellevue also supports incentives that enhance research and development.

Increased Funding Support for Workforce Housing: Bellevue supports the Housing Trust Fund, which is the State's main resource for funding the capital costs of affordable workforce housing development. Bellevue also supports other state and local tools to increase and sustain development of workforce housing in cities.

B. TRANSPORTATION

- 1. Bellevue's Transportation Priorities.** The City of Bellevue, as home to King County's second largest metropolitan center, requires a broad mix of transportation solutions including highway, regional bus, regional light rail, pedestrian and bicycle

infrastructure, local transit and local roadway improvements to support growth.

New Transportation Revenue Package: Bellevue supports the development of a state-enacted transportation package that provides new revenues for roads and transit, including an increase in the State gas tax, dedicated gas tax funding for local distribution and focuses on the following projects that are of critical importance to Bellevue:

- Completion of projects identified in the I-405 Master Plan
 - NE 6th extension to 120th Ave NE
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 - NE 12th to SE 8th restriping to accommodate an additional lane each direction
 - Completion of SB SR 520 to I-405 braided ramp at NE 10th
- Funding for a full new interchange at 124th on SR 520

2. Transportation Funding. The State highway and federal interstate system in East King County fails to meet the needs of the region and is threatening the quality of life and economic prosperity of those living and working in the region. The Legislature should ensure the State gas tax provides adequate revenue to address near-term transportation system funding for the State and local government transportation needs, including increasing the state gas tax and indexing the gas tax for inflation. Bellevue supports legislation that provides new local authority transportation tools and new revenue sources that provide a sustainable revenue stream to meet State and regional transportation needs.

3. Tolling. Bellevue supports the following principles concerning tolling of State highways (these principles are excerpted from previously-adopted Council policies and interest statements):

- a. The State should develop a region-wide phasing plan that responds to the need to provide geographic balance and regional equity in the use of tolling to improve overall highway system performance and manage regional travel demand;
- b. Tolling should be used as both a tool for managing and improving highway operations for all users and as a revenue tool to augment project funding;
- c. Revenue raised in the corridor should be spent in the corridor (this has been State law for the last several years, with the exception of 2012, when the Legislature passed a bill allowing future I-90 toll revenue to be used to help fund SR 520);
- d. Traffic diversion and its associated effects on local roads should be minimized and the State should mitigate negative impacts; and,
- e. The State should continually monitor and evaluate the impacts and performance of all tolled lanes and assess the impact on general purpose, transit and HOV travel lanes, including occupancy parameters for 2+ and 3+ HOV users and ensure that 2-person carpools either improves or holds harmless general purpose lane performance as compared with any No Build scenario.
- f. Toll revenue should be used to optimally leverage State gas tax revenues, bonding availability and Federal partnership funding.

Corridor-Specific Guiding Principles: The City shall engage with WSDOT and refine tolling guidance over time as the region's tolling plan is implemented. The following principles should guide this engagement with regard to Bellevue's key highways—I-405, SR 520 and I-90:

- **I-405:** In addition to Bellevue's tolling principles, WSDOT should ensure that the Express Toll Lanes being planned and constructed on I-405 be consistent with the I-405 Master Plan and implemented where new capacity has been, or will be added, to accommodate the toll lanes.
- **Cross Lake Corridors - SR 520 & I-90:** In addition to Bellevue's tolling principles, WSDOT should engage with affected communities, stakeholders and cross-lake users of both bridges to ensure that the Legislature's direction to toll I-90 to help fund remaining costs associated with the SR 520 bridge replacement project be done in an open and transparent manner. A meaningful portion of the tolling revenue generated by I-90 tolls should be used to improve overall operation, maintenance and improvements (e.g., capital improvements such as targeted capacity improvements, park-and-ride lot expansion, transit service, enhancements, etc.) to I-90 through a future formal agreement with WSDOT.

C. FINANCE

1. **Local Revenue Authority.** Oppose legislation that would reduce the City's tax or license base or revenue authority, or would adversely alter or limit the distribution or application of revenue at the local level. Support legislation that provides additional financial flexibility at the discretion of the city legislative body, while recognizing the need for local government to streamline its revenue collection processes and act in a "business friendly" manner.
2. **State-Shared Funding:** Bellevue supports preserving State-shared revenues and supports retention of programs and authority benefitting local government. Specifically, Bellevue supports:
 - Restoring the \$10 million ongoing diversion of liquor taxes and reinstating the local share of excess liquor profits
 - Restoring the six-year diversion of Public Works Trust Fund monies to the State general fund that occurred in the 2013-15 state operating budget
 - Ensuring continued appropriation of committed state-shared revenues such as liquor profits and taxes, the annexation sales tax credit, streamlined sales tax (SST) mitigation funding, municipal criminal justice account funding, and public health funding
 - Ensuring that the State share with cities a portion of the anticipated marijuana revenue to help offset local enforcement and other impacts
3. **Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax Authority.** Bellevue opposes legislation that will reduce municipal B&O taxing, administration and licensing authority or revenue. Bellevue, along with ~~four other cities~~ Seattle, Tacoma and Everett, is leading the effort to streamline administration and reporting of the local share of the B&O tax through development of a single multi-city portal for registering businesses and reporting and paying local B&O taxes. This approach would provide greater efficiency while retaining local control, flexibility and revenue capacity from this important funding source. Bellevue supports use of the Model Business and Occupation Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance with limited exceptions to allow flexibility to each city to adjust its tax structure to meet local business needs and priorities, and economic development goals.
4. **Sales Tax.** Bellevue supports continued mitigation for losses to jurisdictions that are negatively impacted from changes to sales tax sourcing, until such time as voluntary compliance of the collection and payment of State and local sales tax on interstate

mail order and internet sales, or federal mandate, results in net positive revenues from the sourcing change.

- 5. Telecommunications Taxes.** Bellevue opposes any reduction in the ability of municipalities to impose reasonable taxes and fees on telecommunication services.
- 6. Sales Tax Limitations.** Bellevue opposes legislation to extend sales tax to new areas of local government operations, such as parks and recreations programs for youth.
- 7. Utility Lien Law.** Bellevue opposes legislation that would preempt existing city authority to place liens on property or discontinue service to assure payment for utility services.
- 8. City Utility Tax Authority.** Support maintenance of existing city utility tax revenues and utility authority.

D. ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND UTILITIES

Bellevue considers natural resources to be key community assets for current and future generations and supports legislation and funding to maintain the City's quality of life, including preserving and protecting a healthy environment and economy.

1. ENERGY

- a. Clean Energy and Technology Sector.** Bellevue supports funding that would enhance cities' ability to attract and retain emerging clean ~~economy~~ energy businesses and jobs, including funding or favorable financing mechanisms for development of infrastructure required to accommodate them.
- b. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.** Bellevue supports incentives for the installation of renewable energy generation equipment and facilities, including solar, heat recovery and geothermal. The City also supports incentives to encourage energy efficiency, conservation and the use of advanced biofuels (e.g. biodiesel and ethanol, among others).
- c. Public-Private Partnerships.** Bellevue supports legislation enabling public-private partnerships that increase the functionality and value of public facilities (e.g., park-and-ride facilities).

2. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE

- a. Green Fleets.** Bellevue supports incentives for government fleets to transition to cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles, such as hybrids and plug-in electric vehicles.
- b. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.** Bellevue supports funding for regional, state and multistate electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning and implementation efforts.
- c. Air Pollution Prevention.** Bellevue supports increased funding for local and regional air quality and pollution reduction programs, including those managed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) and the Clean Cities Coalition. Bellevue supports legislation that would provide the option for all larger cities to be directly represented on the PSCAA Board of Directors.
- d. Commute Trip Reduction.** Bellevue supports Commute Trip Reduction funding and policies that reduce demand on local and state roads.

3. WATER SUPPLY

Bellevue supports State policy that:

- a. Encourages cooperative efforts of local governments to undertake water supply planning, develop new water resources, and link systems together for greater efficiency.
- b. Provides tools that allow local governments and water supply agencies to equitably balance competing demands on water resources, including a balance between in-stream and out-of-stream benefits.
- c. Creates incentives to pursue and encourage cost-effective water conservation measures for all segments of water users.
- ~~e.d.~~ Encourages water efficiency through the building code council's adoption of a rule to require that all new toilets sold in the state must be high efficiency toilets by 2016.

Bellevue opposes:

- a. Changes to the municipal water law statute that would jeopardize the ability of the Cascade Water Alliance to meet its obligations to its members.

4. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND NPDES PERMIT

The City supports:

- a. Additional funding to help cities implement the municipal stormwater discharge permit under Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (NPDES);
- b. Flexible and direct funding to cities and counties to meet NPDES requirements based on a per-capita or other formula that recognizes the burdens of the new regulations to different jurisdictions.

The City opposes:

- a. ~~New~~ pPermit requirements that exceed what is reasonable and practicable regarding urban runoff;
- b. ~~New~~ pPermit requirements that undermine local land use authority and/or conflict with the Growth Management Act vesting rules and other local government functions;
- c. Permit-mandated watershed scale stormwater planning that undermines the local land use control and/or potentially expands City liability for the actions of other jurisdictions; and
- d. Department of Ecology rulemaking that results in unrealistic water quality standards and ~~enforcement~~ implementation through Water Quality Cleanup Plans and the NPDES Permit.

5. SOLID WASTE

- a. Preserve Local Authority. Bellevue supports preserving existing city authority over solid waste management, especially waste stream control and recycling.
- b. Mitigation. Bellevue supports legislation to allow cities with essential public facilities within their boundaries (e.g. transfer stations) to receive reasonable

fees to mitigate the related public safety and infrastructure impacts, costs, and loss of tax revenue.

a.c. Lifecycle Product Stewardship.

Bellevue supports:

- Improved packaging requirements to include significant recycled content and to improve the ease of recycling products at the end of their useful life;
- Programs that encourage manufacturer responsibility for developing and implementing a collection system for the reclamation and proper disposal of their products at the end of the products' useful life;
- A convenient, safe, secure and environmentally sound medicine take-back program for unwanted medicines from households through a mechanism that covers the cost of collection, transportation and legislation for point of sale fees on hazardous waste products to support the operation of specialized collection facilities; and
- ~~▪ Legislation to allow cities with essential public facilities within their boundaries (e.g. transfer stations) to receive reasonable fees to mitigate the related public safety and infrastructure impacts, costs, and loss of tax revenue; and~~
- Disposal that does not rely on local government funding.

6. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

a. Salmon Recovery and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Funding. The City supports increased state funding for salmon recovery focused on watershed forums' implementation plans. Bellevue also supports legislation that streamlines permitting for ESA-related projects.

a.b. Fish Consumption Rulemaking and Legislation: Bellevue will monitor the Department of Ecology's rulemaking and any subsequent legislation regarding fish consumption and water quality standards to ensure a balanced, rational approach on this issue as these may impact regulatory compliance and costs.

b.c. Puget Sound Partnership. The City supports legislation that is compatible with current planning efforts and activities related to water quality, quantity and habitat, as well as consistency with community values and appropriate fiscal constraints. Bellevue opposes adoption of actions or legislation that imposes unrealistic or infeasible water quality, quantity or habitat or monitoring requirements in urban areas.

c.d. Flood Control. Bellevue supports legislation that would require balancing public safety concerns with habitat protection when reviewing and/or issuing permits for flood control projects. The City also supports efforts to ensure there is a nexus between the expenditure of funds within a flood control zone and the contribution and benefit received by areas within the zone.

d.e. Reclaimed Water. Bellevue supports legislation requiring a cost-benefit analysis from purveyors of reclaimed water to ensure that general rate-paying customers are not subsidizing those who will benefit directly from the reclaimed water system.

e.f. Lakeline Funding. The City supports funding to repair and/or replace deteriorating segments of the sewer pipeline located along the shore of Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

E. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. **Insurance/Tort Reform.** Bellevue supports efforts by the State to reduce liability costs which will add a greater degree of certainty to business and government budgets and improve the economic environment. Bellevue supports legislation to amend State tort statutes to remove unreasonable municipal and private sector liabilities, specifically:
 - a. **Joint and Several Liability.** Exempt cities and towns from joint and several liability for the acts of other persons at fault;
 - b. **Cap Non-Economic Damages:** Provide caps on non-economic damages for local government entities, their officers, employees, and volunteers and for businesses and health care providers.

2. Public Contracting

- a. **Procurement.** Bellevue o~~pposes~~s efforts to mandate a specific statewide procurement code for local use.
 - b. **Bidding-Limits.** Bellevue s~~S~~upports legislation giving cities greater flexibility with bidding procedures and increases in bid limits.
 - c. **Public Works.** Support legislation that clarifies, streamlines, and/or simplifies prevailing wage processes, reduces fees for processes, and/or limits increases in hourly wage rates to reflect inflationary rates. Support legislative or regulatory changes that ensure job classifications for prevailing wage purposes reflect industry practices.
3. **Protect Public Intellectual Property.** Support legislation to grant local authority to calculate and assess charges for custom electronic products developed from electronic information systems when provided to persons or organizations for other than governmental uses. Permissible charges for such data should include a reasonable amount to cover staff time to research and develop the information system.
 4. **Telecommunications and Rights-of-Way.** Protect local authority to require franchises to manage city rights-of-way and to protect publicly-owned infrastructure. Bellevue supports current State law requiring utilities to bear the cost of relocating their facilities in public rights-of-way.
 5. **Disclosure of Information.**
 - a. Bellevue takes a customer focused approach in providing efficient and effective access to public records, and is committed to allocating resources to respond appropriately to the Public Records Act while balancing resources and customer expectations. The City recognizes that some local government agencies have been overwhelmed in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Act due to the actions of a small number of requestors. In this light, the City supports legislation that would permit injunctive relief from abusive and punitive requestors, and would allow cities to develop resource limits to prevent escalating records requests from draining budgets.
 - b. Bellevue also supports providing exemptions to the public disclosure act that would protect personal information of clients participating in City-sponsored activities, such as parks and recreation programs, and confidential or proprietary information supplied by persons or entities doing business with governments.

6. **Eminent Domain Authority.** Bellevue will monitor proposals to change eminent domain authority to ensure that the ability of local governments to use eminent domain in appropriate situations is not diminished and to ensure that the costs and administrative burden for using eminent domain authority are not unreasonably increased.

F. GROWTH MANAGEMENT, LAND USE AND PLANNING

1. **Growth Management.** Support legislation providing incentives to focus future growth in cities and urban centers. Support legislation to enable local governments to address growth management issues through balanced regional policy planning and local program implementation as envisioned by the policy coordination and consistency requirements of the State Growth Management Act (GMA). Oppose legislation that would exempt essential public facilities from compliance with SEPA and oppose legislation that would decrease the City's ability to regulate and influence the siting of essential public facilities.
2. **Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).** Support legislation that provides cities with additional support, incentives and authority to encourage compact growth around transit stations and areas served by high frequency transit, such as the option of SEPA exemptions or additional authority regarding concurrency. Oppose any form of mandatory TOD legislation imposed on cities that would limit local government zoning authority. Monitor legislation and proposals regarding "value capture financing" in areas currently identified or zoned for TOD-type development.
3. **Concurrency.** Bellevue supports the premise of GMA concurrency, and further supports ensuring that cities have clear authority to implement concurrency in a manner best suited to meet city-wide growth management goals. The City opposes any changes that would undermine local land use authority.
4. **Regulatory and Permitting Reform.** The City supports defining, coordinating, simplifying and streamlining land use decisions and permitting under the GMA as well as under SEPA and the Shorelines Management Act, balancing benefits of statewide uniformity with the need for local communities to govern themselves. The City opposes legislation that would diminish the City's authority over permitting and fees.
5. **Shoreline Management.** The Legislature should provide full funding to implement and update shoreline management requirements.
6. **Property Rights.** Support a balanced approach to property rights, which recognizes the community benefits from land use and zoning authority and which recognizes the limits of municipal financial resources while respecting the rights of property owners to be free from unreasonable intrusion into the use and development of property.
7. **State Building Codes.** Oppose legislation that would impose significant new administrative burdens on local government.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

1. **Juvenile Justice and Services.** Support legislation maintaining strong sanctions for chronic, misdemeanor behavior for juvenile offenders and permit greater judicial discretion to impose detention. State policy should recognize legitimate city land use and other regulatory concerns related to juvenile justice issues, including but not limited to, facilities siting and operation issues. Support

continued and enhanced state funding of juvenile justice systems, including local government programs for providing alternatives to incarceration, programs to keep youth off drugs, and the provision of drug treatment.

2. Gun Legislation. Support appropriate gun licensing legislation, as well as:

- a. Enhanced penalties for persons using or possessing guns in the commission of a crime;
- b. Legislation making any felony conviction and juvenile adjudications reasons for disqualifying applicants from firearm possession permits and linking the possibility of restoration of possession rights to the seriousness of the underlying felony offense/juvenile adjudication;
- c. The ability of local governments to restrict or prohibit the possession of firearms in schools, city parks and other city facilities regardless of gun permits; and
- d. Legislation allowing for the forfeiture of guns in the possession of a suicidal person.

3. Hate Crimes. Support legislation that provides civil equality, fairness and tolerance of differences consistent with the State and federal constitutions.

4. Vehicle Prowling. Support legislation redefining vehicle prowling in the first degree as prowling of all types of vehicles rather than simply certain vehicles in order to make penalties in this area more consistent.

5. Fire Safety Standards. Oppose State regulation of fire response times and staffing standards.

6. Provide Adequate Funding for Police Training Academy. Support adequate State funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy to ensure local agencies are able to meet their police training needs within a reasonable time.

7. ~~Medical Marijuana/Legalization of Adult Marijuana Use.~~ ~~City staff is evaluating this issue and will propose a position once more is known about the potential impact of the ballot initiative regarding adult recreational marijuana use, the federal response, and subsequent to a discussion by the Council of the primary policy questions about the appropriate role for local zoning authorities. At a minimum, the City will monitor and advocate for Bellevue's interests as appropriate.~~ **Medical Cannabis/Legalization of Adult Marijuana Use:** Bellevue supports legislative changes to consolidate the laws regulating the production and distribution of medical cannabis and recreational marijuana into a single system. The principle focus should be on achieving safe and appropriate access to medically recommended supply of medical cannabis while removing incentives to continue with black marketing of products. The City also strongly supports legislative confirmation of local authority over traditional land use, licensing, local taxes and fees, and other regulatory functions regarding marijuana production or distribution.

H. PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Parks and Open Space. Support legislation to secure long-term State funding for maintenance of existing parks, as well as acquisition/development of open space and active and passive parks consistent with local and county-wide planning policies.

2. **Forest Practices Permits.** Support legislation requiring that all forest practices permits issued for properties within city limits or within urban growth boundaries be subject to local government review processes.
3. **Park Usage Liability.** Support existing protections for local government from liability in park facilities.

I. PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS

1. **Interest Arbitration.** Oppose expansion of compulsory interest arbitration. Bellevue supports legislation to:
 - a. Revise the factors considered in binding interest arbitration for police and fire to include the city's ~~ability to pay~~, economic ~~conditions, other city~~ priorities and fiscal limitations, qualifications of arbiters, local labor market conditions and internal equity with other city employees;
 - b. Make wage comparability requirements consistent between police and fire to eliminate West Coast comparisons when sufficient in-state comparables exist; and
 - c. Use 90 percent of the Consumer Price Index as appropriate cost of living measure in determining wage increases.
2. **Workers Compensation.** To address rising workers compensation costs, the City supports a comprehensive evaluation of the workers compensation system to provide greater certainty, fairness and accountability for both employers and employees. The City opposes legislation that would limit the ability of cities and towns to self-fund workers' compensation programs. The City opposes the expansion of occupational disease presumptions for firefighters.
3. **Disclosure of Labor Negotiations Materials.** Support legislation that would exempt from public disclosure requirements materials and information gathered and prepared in anticipation of labor negotiations, disclosure of which would reveal the municipality's collective bargaining strategy in current or future negotiations.
4. **LEOFF II Right to Sue.** The City supports legislation to amend State law to clarify that LEOFF II members may not sue their city employers for on-the-job injuries, but may sue only for intentional acts.
5. **Retiree Benefits for Firemen's Pension Fund Member's Surviving Spouses.** Bellevue and other cities support closing the loophole in the recent amendment to the Firemen's Pension Action to prevent deathbed election of benefits that would be costly to the City.
6. **Control Pension Costs.** Bellevue urges the Legislature to consider and limit fiscal impacts to local governments if legislation is considered that will change employer contribution rates, or provide enhanced benefits in the LEOFF, PERS, and PSERS systems. Bellevue also supports the State providing financial assistance to cities to help pay for LEOFF 1 liabilities.
7. **Manage LEOFF 1 Retiree Medical Costs.** Bellevue supports the State providing financial assistance to cities to help pay for LEOFF 1 medical costs.

J. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. **State Support for Social Service Programs.** Major cuts to social service programs at the State level could result in shifting the responsibility and costs for providing such services to local governments. The City supports:
 - a. Continued state funding for public health and human services and opposes legislation that would result in shifting the costs of providing such services, including mental and dental health, to local governments. The City supports the County as the appropriate regional provider of public health care services, while recognizing the unique issues of urban health departments may require supplemental State funding. Oppose legislation that would require increasing City financial contributions to County public health systems.
 - b. State funding of effective mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs
 - c. Maintain State funding for job training, ESL training, and child care for those making the transition from welfare to work and those who become unemployed during the recession.
2. **Adult Family Homes.** Monitor legislation regarding the siting and operation of adult family homes.
3. **Eastside Human Service Forum Priorities:** ~~Bellevue is a member of the Eastside Human Services Forum and supports the following priorities~~

The Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) advocates with Eastside Cities, King County, State, and Federal governments to ensure that revenue and policies support the needs of East King County residents. The Eastside Human Services Forum Board has a designated seat for a Bellevue City Councilmember. Typically the City adopts the EHSF State Legislative Agenda as part of its Statement of Policy priorities. These priorities include the following:

- a. **Increase Access to Basic Needs.** Support investments in public transportation that are sustainable, flexible, and distributed directly to public transit agencies to meet local and regional priorities.
- b. **Prevent and End Homelessness.** Affordable housing is essential for the kind of communities we all seek to build. The ability to live and work in the same area strengthens the economy, benefits the environment, and reduces stress for working families.
 - Protect the State investment in the Housing Trust Fund by continuing to make new investments in 2014 that address the growing need for homes affordable to low-income families and individuals. Strengthen the process for identifying which programs are funded, to reflect equity principles and sound investments.
 - Repeal sunset of document recording fees. If the document recording fees are not extended beyond 2015, King County homeless housing programs will face a \$6.6 million reduction.
- c. **Support the Most Vulnerable Older Adults and People with Disabilities.** To ensure the best quality of life for vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities, EHSF urges policies that support people to remain in their homes and in the community.
 - Maintain the investment in Family Caregiver Support
 - Expand community based respite for family care givers.

Issues to Monitor

- Support adequate, sustainable funding for community, health, and human services.
 - Reduce barriers to developing affordable homes on unused public property. Enable public entities to discount unused public property for affordable housing development.
 - Monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act to assure it (1) includes behavioral health care through increased coverage for the currently uninsured, (2) can meet client needs overall, and (3) has appropriate reimbursement levels to providers.
 - Monitor State early learning investments and efforts.
 - Increase Disability Lifeline benefits and include ADATSA participants as an eligible population.
 - Increase wages benchmark for the Core Waiver to reduce turnover of staff (currently in excess of 38% statewide). The Core Waiver is intended for people who need up to 24-hour residential services and are at immediate risk of out of home placement.
- ~~a. Protect Home Visiting funding and protect current investments in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), the Working connections Child Care Program, and WAKids, the new State kindergarten assessment.~~
- ~~b. Protect Washington's current long-term care infrastructure and maintain the investment in services that enable older adults and people with disabilities to remain in their homes and in the community, such as the Community Alternative Program waiver and programs and services funded by the Senior Citizens Services Act and family caregiver programs. Protect vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities through programs such as the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Office of Public Guardianship, and through continued oversight of Adult Family Homes.~~
- ~~c. Protect funding to the Housing Trust Fund, the Housing and Essential Needs Program (which replaced the Disability Lifeline), and extend foster care for all youth until age 21.~~
- ~~d. Protect funding for the Washington Information Network (WIN 2-1-1) and protect programs that provide basic needs to all residents, such as food and health care, including mental health, substance abuse and medical interpretation.~~

Issues to Monitor: ~~funding for Naturalization Services; adequate, sustainable funding for community health and human services; funding for the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); efforts pertaining to implementation of the Affordable Care Act; and linkages to housing for individuals at risk for homelessness upon leaving state mental health, foster care, correctional and juvenile rehabilitation systems.~~

- K. EARLY CHILDHOOD, SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN/YOUTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS** The City supports strong state programs for children and families, including early childhood education, school readiness, after-school programs, access to quality child

care, drop-out prevention, family support, prevention of child abuse, special education and local government partnerships with school districts.

L. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- 1. State Housing Funding/Strategies.** Support a permanent source of funding for the State Housing Trust Fund to support the State's and County's goals to end homelessness in accord with the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Support State funding for rental assistance and services for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. Support strategies that create incentives for the creation of more low-income, senior and workforce housing.
- 2. Group Care Facilities.** In concert with related changes in federal law, support changes in State law that will preserve local municipal authority to shape our communities while considering and balancing the needs of everyone. In particular, support changes to ensure that the State Department of Social and Health Services and other State agencies are responsive to local safety and neighborhood concerns in siting and overseeing group care facilities.



DRAFT CITY OF BELLEVUE 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE STATEMENT OF POLICY

Note: The 2014 Draft Statement of Policy was reviewed by staff and edited to reflect changes that occurred as a result of legislative action in 2013.

Changes between the 2013 adopted and 2014 draft Statement of Policy are shown in Track Changes. A "clean" copy is also included for ease in reading the document.

GENERAL POLICY

The City of Bellevue supports State legislative efforts to encourage cost-effective State, regional and local policy planning and delivery of government services. The City supports legislation that enhances local flexibility to address issues of local concern. The City opposes legislation that mandates increased local costs or results in an inappropriate diminution of local authority over local affairs.

- A. ECONOMIC VITALITY.** Quality of life for Bellevue's residents, businesses, neighborhoods and overall community is inextricably linked to our area's economic vitality. The City supports development of tools that improve and enhance the innovation and knowledge workforce and economic sectors that contribute to our overall quality of life. Bellevue also supports funding for infrastructure improvements, including mobility options and better transit services, which are a key factor in innovation firms choosing to locate in the City, especially in Downtown.

The City will focus its legislative efforts on the following:

Support for the Technology Sector: Bellevue supports efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the technology sector through investments in infrastructure and education, specifically STEM, K-12, advanced manufacturing for technical specialties, and apprenticeships. Bellevue also supports incentives that enhance research and development.

Increased Funding Support for Workforce Housing: Bellevue supports the Housing Trust Fund, which is the State's main resource for funding the capital costs of affordable workforce housing development. Bellevue also supports other state and local tools to increase and sustain development of workforce housing in cities.

B. TRANSPORTATION

- 1. Bellevue's Transportation Priorities.** The City of Bellevue, as home to King County's second largest metropolitan center, requires a broad mix of transportation solutions including highway, regional bus, regional light rail, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, local transit and local roadway improvements to support growth.

New Transportation Revenue Package: Bellevue supports the development of a state-enacted transportation package that provides new revenues for roads and transit, including an increase in the State gas tax, dedicated gas tax funding for local distribution and focuses on the following projects that are of critical importance to Bellevue:

- Completion of projects identified in the I-405 Master Plan
 - NE 6th extension to 120th Ave NE
 - One new lane in each direction from I-90 to Renton
 - NE 12th to SE 8th restriping to accommodate an additional lane each direction
 - Completion of SB SR 520 to I-405 braided ramp at NE 10th
- Funding for a full new interchange at 124th on SR 520

2. **Transportation Funding.** The State highway and federal interstate system in East King County fails to meet the needs of the region and is threatening the quality of life and economic prosperity of those living and working in the region. The Legislature should ensure the State gas tax provides adequate revenue to address near-term transportation system funding for the State and local government transportation needs, including increasing the state gas tax and indexing the gas tax for inflation. Bellevue supports legislation that provides new local authority transportation tools and new revenue sources that provide a sustainable revenue stream to meet State and regional transportation needs.

3. **Tolling.** Bellevue supports the following principles concerning tolling of State highways (these principles are excerpted from previously-adopted Council policies and interest statements):

- a. The State should develop a region-wide phasing plan that responds to the need to provide geographic balance and regional equity in the use of tolling to improve overall highway system performance and manage regional travel demand;
- b. Tolling should be used as both a tool for managing and improving highway operations for all users and as a revenue tool to augment project funding;
- c. Revenue raised in the corridor should be spent in the corridor (this has been State law for the last several years, with the exception of 2012, when the Legislature passed a bill allowing future I-90 toll revenue to be used to help fund SR 520);
- d. Traffic diversion and its associated effects on local roads should be minimized and the State should mitigate negative impacts; and,
- e. The State should continually monitor and evaluate the impacts and performance of all tolled lanes and assess the impact on general purpose, transit and HOV travel lanes, including occupancy parameters for 2+ and 3+ HOV users and ensure that 2-person carpools either improves or holds harmless general purpose lane performance as compared with any No Build scenario.
- f. Toll revenue should be used to optimally leverage State gas tax revenues, bonding availability and Federal partnership funding.

Corridor-Specific Guiding Principles: The City shall engage with WSDOT and refine tolling guidance over time as the region's tolling plan is implemented. The following principles should guide this engagement with regard to Bellevue's key highways—I-405, SR 520 and I-90:

- **I-405:** In addition to Bellevue's tolling principles, WSDOT should ensure that the Express Toll Lanes being planned and constructed on I-405 be consistent with the I-405 Master Plan and implemented where new capacity has been, or will be added, to accommodate the toll lanes.
- **Cross Lake Corridors - SR 520 & I-90:** In addition to Bellevue's tolling principles, WSDOT should engage with affected communities, stakeholders and cross-lake users of both bridges to ensure that the Legislature's direction

to toll I-90 to help fund remaining costs associated with the SR 520 bridge replacement project be done in an open and transparent manner. A meaningful portion of the tolling revenue generated by I-90 tolls should be used to improve overall operation, maintenance and improvements (e.g., capital improvements such as targeted capacity improvements, park-and-ride lot expansion, transit service, enhancements, etc.) to I-90 through a future formal agreement with WSDOT.

C. FINANCE

1. **Local Revenue Authority.** Oppose legislation that would reduce the City's tax or license base or revenue authority, or would adversely alter or limit the distribution or application of revenue at the local level. Support legislation that provides additional financial flexibility at the discretion of the city legislative body, while recognizing the need for local government to streamline its revenue collection processes and act in a "business friendly" manner.
2. **State-Shared Funding:** Bellevue supports preserving State-shared revenues and supports retention of programs and authority benefitting local government. Specifically, Bellevue supports:
 - Restoring the \$10 million ongoing diversion of liquor taxes and reinstating the local share of excess liquor profits
 - Restoring the six-year diversion of Public Works Trust Fund monies to the State general fund that occurred in the 2013-15 state operating budget
 - Ensuring continued appropriation of committed state-shared revenues such as liquor profits and taxes, the annexation sales tax credit, streamlined sales tax (SST) mitigation funding, municipal criminal justice account funding, and public health funding
 - Ensuring that the State share with cities a portion of the anticipated marijuana revenue to help offset local enforcement and other impacts
3. **Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax Authority.** Bellevue opposes legislation that will reduce municipal B&O taxing, administration and licensing authority or revenue. Bellevue, along with Seattle, Tacoma and Everett, is leading the effort to streamline administration and reporting of the local share of the B&O tax through development of a single multi-city portal for registering businesses and reporting and paying local B&O taxes. This approach would provide greater efficiency while retaining local control, flexibility and revenue capacity from this important funding source. Bellevue supports use of the Model Business and Occupation Gross Receipts Tax Ordinance with limited exceptions to allow flexibility to each city to adjust its tax structure to meet local business needs and priorities, and economic development goals.
4. **Sales Tax.** Bellevue supports continued mitigation for losses to jurisdictions that are negatively impacted from changes to sales tax sourcing, until such time as voluntary compliance of the collection and payment of State and local sales tax on interstate mail order and internet sales, or federal mandate, results in net positive revenues from the sourcing change.
5. **Telecommunications Taxes.** Bellevue opposes any reduction in the ability of municipalities to impose reasonable taxes and fees on telecommunication services.
6. **Sales Tax Limitations.** Bellevue opposes legislation to extend sales tax to new areas of local government operations, such as parks and recreations programs for youth.

7. **Utility Lien Law.** Bellevue opposes legislation that would preempt existing city authority to place liens on property or discontinue service to assure payment for utility services.
8. **City Utility Tax Authority.** Support maintenance of existing city utility tax revenues and utility authority.

D. ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND UTILITIES

Bellevue considers natural resources to be key community assets for current and future generations and supports legislation and funding to maintain the City's quality of life, including preserving and protecting a healthy environment and economy.

1. ENERGY

- a. **Clean Energy and Technology Sector.** Bellevue supports funding that would enhance cities' ability to attract and retain emerging clean energy businesses and jobs, including funding or favorable financing mechanisms for development of infrastructure required to accommodate them.
- b. **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.** Bellevue supports incentives for the installation of renewable energy generation equipment and facilities, including solar, heat recovery and geothermal. The City also supports incentives to encourage energy efficiency, conservation and the use of advanced biofuels (e.g. biodiesel and ethanol, among others).
- c. **Public-Private Partnerships.** Bellevue supports legislation enabling public-private partnerships that increase the functionality and value of public facilities (e.g., park-and-ride facilities).

2. AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE

- a. **Green Fleets.** Bellevue supports incentives for government fleets to transition to cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles, such as hybrids and plug-in electric vehicles.
- b. **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure.** Bellevue supports funding for regional, state and multistate electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure planning and implementation efforts.
- c. **Air Pollution Prevention.** Bellevue supports increased funding for local and regional air quality and pollution reduction programs, including those managed by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) and the Clean Cities Coalition. Bellevue supports legislation that would provide the option for all larger cities to be directly represented on the PSCAA Board of Directors.
- d. **Commute Trip Reduction.** Bellevue supports Commute Trip Reduction funding and policies that reduce demand on local and state roads.

3. WATER SUPPLY

Bellevue supports State policy that:

- a. Encourages cooperative efforts of local governments to undertake water supply planning, develop new water resources, and link systems together for greater efficiency.

- b. Provides tools that allow local governments and water supply agencies to equitably balance competing demands on water resources, including a balance between in-stream and out-of-stream benefits.
- c. Creates incentives to pursue and encourage cost-effective water conservation measures for all segments of water users.
- d. Encourages water efficiency through the building code council's adoption of a rule to require that all new toilets sold in the state must be high efficiency toilets by 2016.

Bellevue opposes:

- a. Changes to the municipal water law statute that would jeopardize the ability of the Cascade Water Alliance to meet its obligations to its members.

4. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND NPDES PERMIT

The City supports:

- a. Additional funding to help cities implement the municipal stormwater discharge permit under Phase II of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (NPDES);
- b. Flexible and direct funding to cities and counties to meet NPDES requirements based on a per-capita or other formula that recognizes the burdens of the new regulations to different jurisdictions.

The City opposes:

- a. Permit requirements that exceed what is reasonable and practicable regarding urban runoff;
- b. Permit requirements that undermine local land use authority and/or conflict with the Growth Management Act vesting rules and other local government functions;
- c. Permit-mandated watershed scale stormwater planning that undermines the local land use control and/or potentially expands City liability for the actions of other jurisdictions; and
- d. Department of Ecology rulemaking that results in unrealistic water quality standards and implementation through Water Quality Cleanup Plans and the NPDES Permit.

5. SOLID WASTE

- a. **Preserve Local Authority.** Bellevue supports preserving existing city authority over solid waste management, especially waste stream control and recycling.
- b. **Mitigation.** Bellevue supports legislation to allow cities with essential public facilities within their boundaries (e.g. transfer stations) to receive reasonable fees to mitigate the related public safety and infrastructure impacts, costs, and loss of tax revenue.
- c. **Lifecycle Product Stewardship.**

Bellevue supports:

- Improved packaging requirements to include significant recycled content and to improve the ease of recycling products at the end of their useful life;

- Programs that encourage manufacturer responsibility for developing and implementing a collection system for the reclamation and proper disposal of their products at the end of the products' useful life;
- A convenient, safe, secure and environmentally sound medicine take-back program for unwanted medicines from households through a mechanism that covers the cost of collection, transportation and legislation for point of sale fees on hazardous waste products to support the operation of specialized collection facilities; and
- Disposal that does not rely on local government funding.

6. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- a. **Salmon Recovery and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Funding.** The City supports increased state funding for salmon recovery focused on watershed forums' implementation plans. Bellevue also supports legislation that streamlines permitting for ESA-related projects.
- b. **Fish Consumption Rulemaking and Legislation:** Bellevue will monitor the Department of Ecology's rulemaking and any subsequent legislation regarding fish consumption and water quality standards to ensure a balanced, rational approach on this issue as these may impact regulatory compliance and costs.
- c. **Puget Sound Partnership.** The City supports legislation that is compatible with current planning efforts and activities related to water quality, quantity and habitat, as well as consistency with community values and appropriate fiscal constraints. Bellevue opposes adoption of actions or legislation that imposes unrealistic or infeasible water quality, quantity or habitat or monitoring requirements in urban areas.
- d. **Flood Control.** Bellevue supports legislation that would require balancing public safety concerns with habitat protection when reviewing and/or issuing permits for flood control projects. The City also supports efforts to ensure there is a nexus between the expenditure of funds within a flood control zone and the contribution and benefit received by areas within the zone.
- e. **Reclaimed Water.** Bellevue supports legislation requiring a cost-benefit analysis from purveyors of reclaimed water to ensure that general rate-paying customers are not subsidizing those who will benefit directly from the reclaimed water system.
- f. **Lakeline Funding.** The City supports funding to repair and/or replace deteriorating segments of the sewer pipeline located along the shore of Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish.

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4. **Regulatory and Permitting Reform.** The City supports defining, coordinating, simplifying and streamlining land use decisions and permitting under the GMA as well as under SEPA and the Shorelines Management Act, balancing benefits of statewide uniformity with the need for local communities to govern themselves. The City opposes legislation that would diminish the City's authority over permitting and fees.
5. **Shoreline Management.** The Legislature should provide full funding to implement and update shoreline management requirements.
6. **Property Rights.** Support a balanced approach to property rights, which recognizes the community benefits from land use and zoning authority and which recognizes the limits of municipal financial resources while respecting the rights of property owners to be free from unreasonable intrusion into the use and development of property.
7. **State Building Codes.** Oppose legislation that would impose significant new administrative burdens on local government.

G. PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE COURTS

1. **Juvenile Justice and Services.** Support legislation maintaining strong sanctions for chronic, misdemeanor behavior for juvenile offenders and permit greater judicial discretion to impose detention. State policy should recognize legitimate city land use and other regulatory concerns related to juvenile justice issues, including but not limited to, facilities siting and operation issues. Support continued and enhanced state funding of juvenile justice systems, including local government programs for providing alternatives to incarceration, programs to keep youth off drugs, and the provision of drug treatment.
2. **Gun Legislation.** Support appropriate gun licensing legislation, as well as:
 - a. Enhanced penalties for persons using or possessing guns in the commission of a crime;
 - b. Legislation making any felony conviction and juvenile adjudications reasons for disqualifying applicants from firearm possession permits and linking the possibility of restoration of possession rights to the seriousness of the underlying felony offense/juvenile adjudication;

- c. The ability of local governments to restrict or prohibit the possession of firearms in schools, city parks and other city facilities regardless of gun permits; and
 - d. Legislation allowing for the forfeiture of guns in the possession of a suicidal person.
3. **Hate Crimes.** Support legislation that provides civil equality, fairness and tolerance of differences consistent with the State and federal constitutions.
 4. **Vehicle Prowling.** Support legislation redefining vehicle prowling in the first degree as prowling of all types of vehicles rather than simply certain vehicles in order to make penalties in this area more consistent.
 5. **Fire Safety Standards.** Oppose State regulation of fire response times and staffing standards.
 6. **Provide Adequate Funding for Police Training Academy.** Support adequate State funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy to ensure local agencies are able to meet their police training needs within a reasonable time.
 7. **Medical Cannabis/Legalization of Adult Marijuana Use:** Bellevue supports legislative changes to consolidate the laws regulating the production and distribution of medical cannabis and recreational marijuana into a single system. The principle focus should be on achieving safe and appropriate access to medically recommended supply of medical cannabis while removing incentives to continue with black marketing of products. The City also strongly supports legislative confirmation of local authority over traditional land use, licensing, local taxes and fees, and other regulatory functions regarding marijuana production or distribution.

H. PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND ENVIRONMENT

1. **Parks and Open Space.** Support legislation to secure long-term State funding for maintenance of existing parks, as well as acquisition/development of open space and active and passive parks consistent with local and county-wide planning policies.
2. **Forest Practices Permits.** Support legislation requiring that all forest practices permits issued for properties within city limits or within urban growth boundaries be subject to local government review processes.
3. **Park Usage Liability.** Support existing protections for local government from liability in park facilities.

I. PERSONNEL AND LABOR RELATIONS

1. **Interest Arbitration.** Oppose expansion of compulsory interest arbitration. Bellevue supports legislation to:
 - a. Revise the factors considered in binding interest arbitration for police and fire to include the city's economic priorities and fiscal limitations, qualifications of arbiters, local labor market conditions and internal equity with other city employees;
 - b. Make wage comparability requirements consistent between police and fire to eliminate West Coast comparisons when sufficient in-state comparables exist; and

- c. Use 90 percent of the Consumer Price Index as appropriate cost of living measure in determining wage increases.
2. **Workers Compensation.** To address rising workers compensation costs, the City supports a comprehensive evaluation of the workers compensation system to provide greater certainty, fairness and accountability for both employers and employees. The City opposes legislation that would limit the ability of cities and towns to self-fund workers' compensation programs. The City opposes the expansion of occupational disease presumptions for firefighters.
3. **Disclosure of Labor Negotiations Materials.** Support legislation that would exempt from public disclosure requirements materials and information gathered and prepared in anticipation of labor negotiations, disclosure of which would reveal the municipality's collective bargaining strategy in current or future negotiations.
4. **LEOFF II Right to Sue.** The City supports legislation to amend State law to clarify that LEOFF II members may not sue their city employers for on-the-job injuries, but may sue only for intentional acts.
5. **Retiree Benefits for Firemen's Pension Fund Member's Surviving Spouses.** Bellevue and other cities support closing the loophole in the recent amendment to the Firemen's Pension Action to prevent deathbed election of benefits that would be costly to the City.
6. **Control Pension Costs.** Bellevue urges the Legislature to consider and limit fiscal impacts to local governments if legislation is considered that will change employer contribution rates, or provide enhanced benefits in the LEOFF, PERS, and PSERS systems. Bellevue also supports the State providing financial assistance to cities to help pay for LEOFF 1 liabilities.
7. **Manage LEOFF 1 Retiree Medical Costs.** Bellevue supports the State providing financial assistance to cities to help pay for LEOFF 1 medical costs.

J. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. **State Support for Social Service Programs.** Major cuts to social service programs at the State level could result in shifting the responsibility and costs for providing such services to local governments. The City supports:
 - a. Continued state funding for public health and human services and opposes legislation that would result in shifting the costs of providing such services, including mental and dental health, to local governments. The City supports the County as the appropriate regional provider of public health care services, while recognizing the unique issues of urban health departments may require supplemental State funding. Oppose legislation that would require increasing City financial contributions to County public health systems.
 - b. State funding of effective mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention programs
 - c. Maintain State funding for job training, ESL training, and child care for those making the transition from welfare to work and those who become unemployed during the recession.
2. **Adult Family Homes.** Monitor legislation regarding the siting and operation of adult family homes.

3. **Eastside Human Service Forum Priorities:**

The Eastside Human Services Forum (EHSF) advocates with Eastside Cities, King County, State, and Federal governments to ensure that revenue and policies support the needs of East King County residents. The Eastside Human Services Forum Board has a designated seat for a Bellevue City Councilmember. Typically the City adopts the EHSF State Legislative Agenda as part of its Statement of Policy priorities. These priorities include the following:

- a. **Increase Access to Basic Needs.** Support investments in public transportation that are sustainable, flexible, and distributed directly to public transit agencies to meet local and regional priorities.
- b. **Prevent and End Homelessness.** Affordable housing is essential for the kind of communities we all seek to build. The ability to live and work in the same area strengthens the economy, benefits the environment, and reduces stress for working families.
 - Protect the State investment in the Housing Trust Fund by continuing to make new investments in 2014 that address the growing need for homes affordable to low-income families and individuals. Strengthen the process for identifying which programs are funded, to reflect equity principles and sound investments.
 - Repeal sunset of document recording fees. If the document recording fees are not extended beyond 2015, King County homeless housing programs will face a \$6.6 million reduction.
- c. **Support the Most Vulnerable Older Adults and People with Disabilities.** To ensure the best quality of life for vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities, EHSF urges policies that support people to remain in their homes and in the community.
 - Maintain the investment in Family Caregiver Support
 - Expand community based respite for family care givers.

Issues to Monitor

- Support adequate, sustainable funding for community, health, and human services.
- Reduce barriers to developing affordable homes on unused public property. Enable public entities to discount unused public property for affordable housing development.
- Monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act to assure it (1) includes behavioral health care through increased coverage for the currently uninsured, (2) can meet client needs overall, and (3) has appropriate reimbursement levels to providers.
- Monitor State early learning investments and efforts.
- Increase Disability Lifeline benefits and include ADATSA participants as an eligible population.
- Increase wages benchmark for the Core Waiver to reduce turnover of staff (currently in excess of 38% statewide). The Core Waiver is intended for people who need up to 24-hour residential services and are at immediate risk of out of home placement.

K. EARLY CHILDHOOD, SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN/YOUTH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS The City supports strong state programs for children and families, including early childhood education, school readiness, after-school programs, access to quality child care, drop-out prevention, family support, prevention of child abuse, special education and local government partnerships with school districts.

L. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

- 1. State Housing Funding/Strategies.** Support a permanent source of funding for the State Housing Trust Fund to support the State's and County's goals to end homelessness in accord with the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. Support State funding for rental assistance and services for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. Support strategies that create incentives for the creation of more low-income, senior and workforce housing.
- 2. Group Care Facilities.** In concert with related changes in federal law, support changes in State law that will preserve local municipal authority to shape our communities while considering and balancing the needs of everyone. In particular, support changes to ensure that the State Department of Social and Health Services and other State agencies are responsive to local safety and neighborhood concerns in siting and overseeing group care facilities.